

**Everything You Thought Was  
Atopic Dermatitis ...  
That Wasn't**

Mark Boguniewicz, MD  
Professor, Division of Allergy-Immunology  
Department of Pediatrics  
National Jewish Health and University of  
Colorado School of Medicine

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Disclosures**

- Nothing relevant to this talk

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Objectives**

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize diseases that may be misdiagnosed as atopic dermatitis
2. Discuss insights into pathophysiology of primary immunodeficiencies with eczema and aberrant IgE synthesis
3. Utilize appropriate testing in patients where the diagnosis of atopic dermatitis is in question

---

---

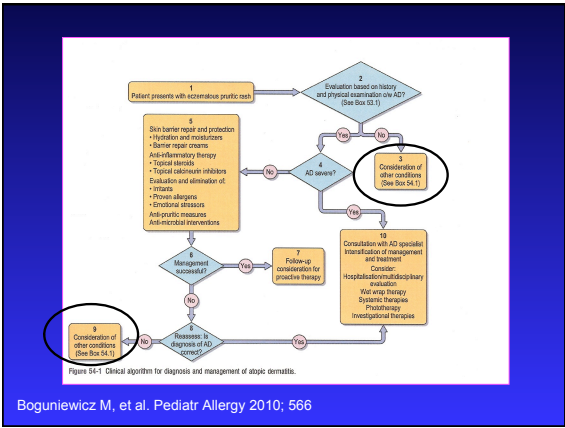
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Differential diagnosis of AD

**Congenital disorders**

- Netherton's syndrome

**Chronic dermatoses**

- Seborrheic dermatitis
- Contact dermatitis (allergic or irritant)
- Nummular eczema
- Lichen simplex chronicus

**Infections and infestations**

- Scabies
- HIV-associated dermatitis

**Malignancy**

- Cutaneous T cell lymphoma (mycosis fungoides/Sézary syndrome)

**Immunodeficiencies**

- Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome
- SCID
- Hyper-IgE syndrome
- DOCK8* mutations
- IPEX

**Metabolic disorders**

- Zinc deficiency
- Pyridoxine (vitamin B<sub>6</sub>) and niacin deficiency
- Multiple carboxylase deficiency
- Phenylketonuria

**Proliferative disorder**

- Letterer-Siwe disease

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Hyper-IgE syndrome

- Multisystem disorder characterized by eczema, skin abscesses, recurrent staphylococcal infections of the skin and lungs, pneumatocele formation, candidiasis, eosinophilia, and elevated serum levels of IgE
- Nonimmunologic features of HIES include characteristic facial appearance, scoliosis, retained primary teeth, joint hyperextensibility, bone fractures after minimal trauma, and craniostylosis
- Heterozygous mutations in signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (*STAT3*) transmitted as autosomal dominant trait shown to be a cause of HIES (~60-70% cases)
- STAT3* crucial for IL-6 mediated regulation of TH17 cells that are significant source of IL-17, a proinflammatory cytokine involved in host defense vs *S. aureus* and *Candida*

Woellner C, et al. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2010;125:424

---

---

---

---

---

---

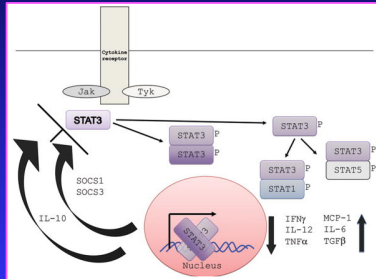
---

---

---

---

## STAT3 signaling pathway

Freeman AF, et al. *Pediatr Res* 2009;65:32

## Features including cardinal features<sup>★</sup> of HIES

	all HES		HES STAT3 wild-type		HES STAT3 mutated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Recurrent pneumonia	85/100	85	24/36	66.7	61/64	95.3
Gross	90/100	90	32/36	88.9	58/64	90.6
Recurrent skin abscesses	86/100	86	28/36	77.8	58/64	90.6
Characteristic skin	82/99	82.8	24/35	68.6	58/64	90.6
Characteristic dental	68/96	68.8	16/31	51.6	44/55	80.0
Long cusp formation	61/97	62.9	14/34	41.2	47/63	74.6
Knock-knee	72/94	72.3	4/34	11.8	41/58	70.7
Newborn rash	52/86	60.5	15/29	51.7	31/57	54.4
After usual infections	47/94	50	13/34	38.2	34/60	56.7
Increased interincisor distance	37/83	44.6	10/31	32.3	51/55	92.7
Catheter pull	44/84	48.8	12/31	38.7	26/53	54.7
Hyperostosis	37/87	42.5	8/32	25.0	26/55	52.7
Abnormal bone structure	32/84	38.1	8/35	22.9	43/58	74.1
Recurrent upper respiratory infections	41/92	44.6	14/33	42.4	27/59	45.8
Cardiomegaly	37/91	40.6	12/33	36.4	25/58	43.1
Knock-knee	70/93	75.3	21/31	67.7	15/26	57.7
Middle anomaly	12/86	14.0	5/34	14.7	7/52	13.5

Woellner C, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2010;125:424



Grimbacher B, et al. N Engl J Med 1999;340:692



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

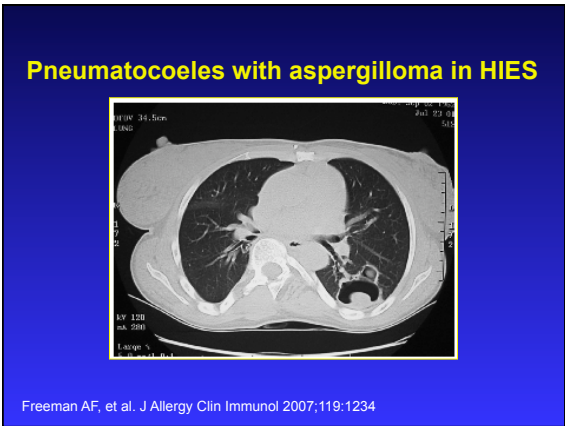
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## NIH Scoring HIE

Scoring system with Clinical and Laboratory Tests for Individuals in Kindred with HIES

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>CLINICAL FINDINGS</b>											
Highest serum IgE level (IU/mL)*	<200	200-500	500-1,000	1,001-1,500	1,501-2,000	2,001-2,500	2,501-3,000	3,001-3,500	3,501-4,000	4,001-4,500	>4,500
Skin abscesses	None	None	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15-16	>16
Pericarditis (episodes over lifetime)	None	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	>9
Pericardial lung anomalies	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Retarded primary teeth	None	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	>9
Scoliosis, maximum curvature	<10°	10-14°	15-19°	20-24°	25-29°	30-34°	35-39°	40-44°	45-49°	50-54°	>54°
Fractures with minor trauma	None	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	>18
Highest eosinophil count (cells/μL)	<700	700-1,000	1,001-1,500	1,501-2,000	2,001-2,500	2,501-3,000	3,001-3,500	3,501-4,000	4,001-4,500	4,501-5,000	>5,000
Characteristic face	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Mildly present	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Severely present	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Newborn rash	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Eczema (severe stage)	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Upper respiratory infections per year	None	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	>18
Candidiasis	None	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-18	>18
Other serious infections	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fungal infection	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Hyperextensibility	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Lymphoma	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Increased nasal width*	<1 SD	1-2 SD	3-4 SD	5-6 SD	7-8 SD	9-10 SD	11-12 SD	13-14 SD	15-16 SD	17-18 SD	>18 SD
High palate	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Young age correction	<1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-6 years	7-8 years	9-10 years	11-12 years	13-14 years	15-16 years	17-18 years	>18 years

≥15 likely HIES  
≤10 unlikely HIES

Grimbacher B, et al. Am J Hum Genet 1999;65:735

## Clinical presentation of patients with and without STAT3 mutations

Findings	Patients with STAT3 mutation (n = 48)	Patients without STAT3 mutation (n = 30)
Increases serum IgE levels*	96%	97%
Blood eosinophilia	93%	77%
Eczema	98%	90%
Newborn rash	74%	40%
Skin abscesses	85%	37%
Internal abscesses	46%	0%
Pneumonia	94%	53%
Pneumatoceles	48%	3%
Susceptibility to infections	89%	70%
Severe infections#	35%	0%
Oral candidiasis	56%	24%
Nail/mucocutaneous candidiasis	54%	13%
Pathologic second dentition	79%	19%
Pathologic bone fractures	60%	3%
Scoliosis	42%	3%
Hyperextensible joints	60%	23%
Characteristic face	90%	17%
Broad nasal bridge	79%	22%
High palate	59%	22%
Atopic disease besides asthma	57%	88%
NIH score ≥40 points	96%	10%

\*Serum IgE levels increased 10 times above the mean of age-matched control subjects.  
#Sepsis, meningitis, osteomyelitis.

Schimke LF, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2010;126:611

## Sensitivity and specificity of clinical findings in patients with HIES and STAT3 mutations

Findings	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)
Increased serum IgE levels (≥10 times normal)	95.8	3.3
Blood eosinophilia	93.5	23.3
Eczema	97.9	10
Newborn rash	73.9	60
Skin abscesses	85.4	63.3
Internal abscesses	45.8	100
Pneumonia	93.8	46.7
Pneumatoceles	47.9	96.7
Increased susceptibility to infections	89.4	30
Severe infections	34.8	100
Oral candidiasis	56.3	74.1
Nail/mucocutaneous candidiasis	54.2	86.7
Pathologic second dentition	78.6	75
Fractures without adequate trauma	60.4	96.7
Scoliosis	41.7	96.7
Hyperextensible joints	59.6	76.7
Characteristic faces*	95.8	60
Positive family history of HIES	6	100
Additional atopic findings	57.1	11.5

\*Characteristic facial features, wide nose, and high palate.

Schimke LF, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2010;126:611

Predicting  
STAT3  
mutation

STAT3-Score: Patient: 3616, Scoring date: 22.08.2008, Gender: M

Clinical Findings		Points				
		4	2	4	5	4
1. Pneumonia (X-ray proven, total 0)	none	1	2	-	3	-15
2. Newborn rash	absent	-	-	present	-	-
3. Pathologic bone fractures	none	-	1-2	-	-	-12
4. Characteristic face for IHS syndrome	absent	mild	-	present	-	-
5. Clefted palate	absent	present	-	-	-	-

	Points	Scale	Scaled Points
1. Pneumonia	1	2.5	2.5
2. Newborn rash	0	1.0	0.0
3. Pathologic bone fractures	0	1.0	0.0
4. Characteristic face for IHS syndrome	1	1.0	1.0
5. Clefted palate	1	1.0	1.0
Total (from 1-5): Scaled Points			4.5

This score sheet is intended to help predict whether a patient already known to have severe IgE above 1000 IU/mL, is likely to have a mutation in STAT3. A total number of scaled points greater than 30 predicts a STAT3 mutation is likely.

An example scoring a hypothetical patient with 3 pneumonias, newborn rash, no fractures, a characteristic face and clefted palate:

STAT3-Score: Patient: 3616, Scoring date: 22.08.2008, Gender: M

Clinical Findings		Points				
		4	2	4	5	4
1. Pneumonia (X-ray proven, total 0)	none	1	2	-	3	-15
2. Newborn rash	absent	-	-	present	-	-
3. Pathologic bone fractures	absent	-	1-2	-	-	-12
4. Characteristic face for IHS syndrome	absent	mild	-	present	-	-
5. Clefted palate	absent	present	-	-	-	-

	Points	Scale	Scaled Points
1. Pneumonia	1	2.5	2.5
2. Newborn rash	0	1.0	0.0
3. Pathologic bone fractures	0	1.0	0.0
4. Characteristic face for IHS syndrome	1	1.0	1.0
5. Clefted palate	1	1.0	1.0
Total (from 1-5): Scaled Points			4.5

The score 39.97 is above the threshold of 30, and so the patient is predicted to have a STAT3 mutation. Because the hypothetical patient does not have fractures or a clefted palate, this shows that not all 5 of the features need to have a high score for the total weighted score to be above the threshold.

Diagnostic guidelines for STAT3-mutant HIES

- Possible: IgE > 1000 IU/mL & weighted score of clinical features >30 based on recurrent pneumonia, newborn rash, pathologic bone fractures, characteristic face and high palate
- Probable: These characteristics & lack of TH17 cells or family history for definitive HIES
- Definitive: These characteristics & dominant-negative heterozygous mutation in STAT3

Woellner C, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2010;125:424

Correlation of NIH score, TH17 cells & STAT3 mutation status

Legend:  
◆ Patients with STAT3 mutation  
○ Patients with wild-type STAT3  
▲ Patient with DOCK8 mutation

Schimke LF, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2010;126:611

Dedicator of cytokinesis 8

- *DOCK8* encodes a protein implicated in the regulation of the actin cytoskeleton
- Susceptibility to viral infections, defective CD4+ and CD8+T-cell activation and TH17 cell differentiation, impaired eosinophil homeostasis and dysregulation of IgE, eczema
- Mutations in *DOCK8* are responsible for many cases of AR HIE syndrome

Engelhardt KR , et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2009;124:1289

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*DOCK8* mutations

Molluscum contagiosum,  
Human papilloma virus,  
encephalitis



Engelhardt KR , et al.  
J Allergy Clin Immunol 2009;124:1289

---

---

---

---

---

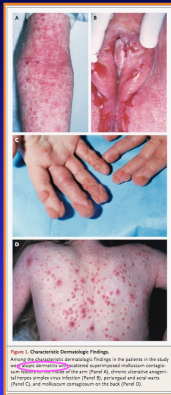
---

---

---

*DOCK8* mutations

Herpes simplex virus,  
Human papilloma virus,  
Molluscum contagiosum



**Figure 1. Characteristic Dermatologic Findings.**  
Among 10 children with *DOCK8* mutations, findings in the patients in the study were: herpes simplex virus (Panel A), human papilloma virus (Panel B), molluscum contagiosum (Panel C), and molluscum contagiosum on the face (Panel D).

Zhang Q, et al. N Engl J Med 2009;361

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### FOXP3 & IPEX syndrome

- Mutations of forkhead box protein 3 (*FOXP3*) the master gene for naturally occurring regulatory T cells (nTregs) are responsible for the impaired function of nTregs, resulting in immune dysregulation, polyendocrinopathy, enteropathy, X-linked (IPEX) syndrome

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Dermatologic and immunologic findings in the immune dysregulation, polyendocrinopathy, enteropathy, X-linked syndrome

- Immune dysregulation, polyendocrinopathy, enteropathy, X-linked (IPEX) syndrome is a rare genodermatosis associated with dermatitis, enteropathy, type 1 diabetes, thyroiditis, hemolytic anemia, and thrombocytopenia
- IPEX results from mutations of *FOXP3*, a gene located on the X chromosome that encodes a DNA-binding protein required for development of regulatory T cells

Nieves DS, et al. Arch Dermatol 2004;140:466

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Cutaneous manifestations of immune dysregulation, polyendocrinopathy, enteropathy, X-linked (IPEX) syndrome



Halabi-Tawil M, et al. Br J Dermatol 2009;160:645

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome**

- X-linked inheritance with mutations in the *WAS* gene
- WASP encoded by *WAS* gene is a multifunctional signaling element expressed in immune and hematopoietic cells that plays a critical role in cytoskeletal reorganization, immune synapse formation and intracellular signaling
- Affected boys in classic presentation with hemorrhagic diathesis 2° to thrombocytopenia, bacterial, viral & fungal infections and eczema

Albert MH, et al. Curr Opin Hematol 2011;18:42

---

---

---

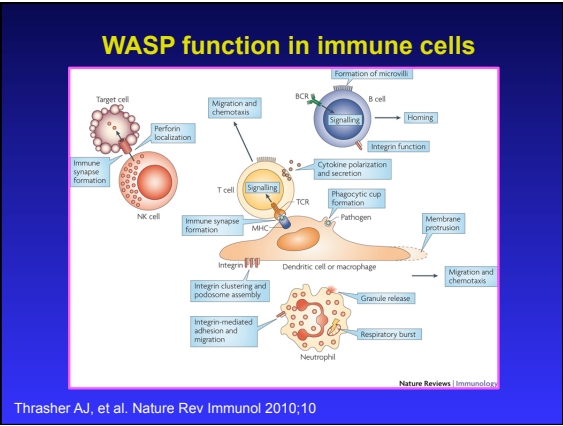
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

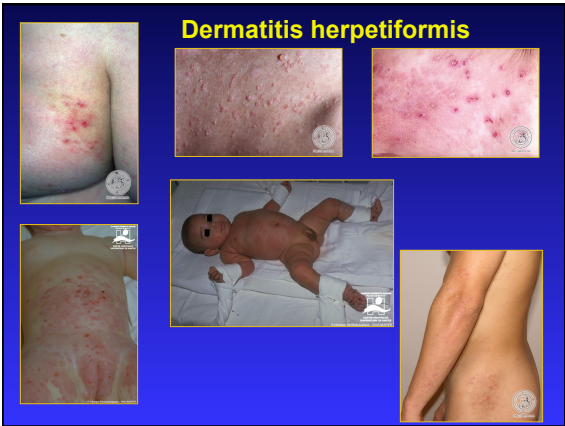
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Dermatitis herpetiformis**

- Autoimmune blistering disease with classical presentation characterized by intensely pruritic polymorphous lesions symmetrically located on extensor surfaces with concentration on the elbows, knees, scapulae, shoulders, sacrum, hairline, and scalp
- Papillary dermal neutrophilic microabscesses seen on routine biopsy and similar distribution of granular deposition of IgA on DIF confirms diagnosis
- Nearly all patients will have clinical or subclinical evidence of small bowel villous atrophy as DH is the cutaneous manifestation of gluten-sensitive enteropathy associated with HLA DQ2 & 8

Junkins-Hopkins JM. J Am Acad Dermatol 2010;63:526

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Both conditions caused by immunologic reaction to ingested gliadin found in wheat, rye, barley and both associated with circulating IgA antibodies against endomysium and tissue transglutaminase (tTG)
- Patients with DH also have IgA antibodies directed against epidermal transglutaminase (eTG), which is homologous to tTG
- A population of non-cross reactive anti-eTG IgA antibodies are found only in DH patients, suggesting that eTG is the target in DH

---

---

---

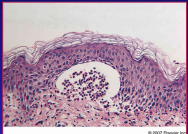
---

---

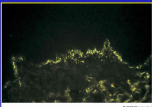
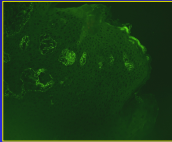
---

---

### Dermatitis herpetiformis



Neutrophilic microabscesses in dermal papillae



Granular IgA

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Unusual presentations of DH

- Although name reflects clinical presentation of herpetiform vesicles, these are often immediately excoriated, resulting in erosions, crusted papules or areas of postinflammatory dyschromia, or pts may have erythema, urticarial plaques or papules
- Severe pruritus, burning and/or stinging, alone or preceding the eruption by 8 to 12 hours are often presenting symptoms simulating scabies
- DH usually occurs in patients between 20 and 40 years of age, but the condition is not restricted to adults
- Children with recalcitrant eczematous lesions, pruritic impetigo and papular urticaria may have DH

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Dermatitis herpetiformis



### Scabies!

---

---

---

---

---

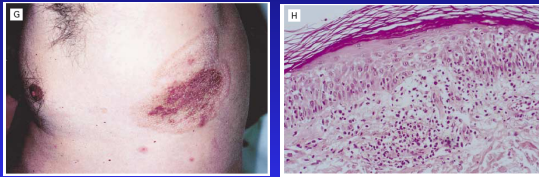
---

---

---

### Mycosis fungoides happens...

- The most common form of CTCL
- Epidermotropic neoplasm of CD4+ T cells



Robert C, Kupper TS. N Engl J Med 1999;341:1817

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Cutaneous T cell lymphoma

- Mycosis fungoides - skin is variably affected by flat patches, thin plaques or tumors - is the most common form of CTCL
  - Patch or plaque lesions have a predilection for non sun-exposed areas (e.g., the buttocks, medial thighs, and breasts), although any area of the skin may be affected
  - Insidious in onset, not uncommon to go unrecognized for # years, most often misdiagnosed as chronic contact dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, or psoriasis
  - Lesions may become variably thickened, may coalesce to form larger plaques, or may undergo partial involution, leaving residual annular plaques
  - Patches and plaques may show hypopigmentation or hyperpigmentation, atrophy, and petechiae

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Stevens SR, et al. Br J Dermatol 2003;149:513

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Lymphocytic infiltrate in superficial dermis with individual lymphocytes among epidermal keratinocytes defines epidermotropism that characterizes this lymphoma
- Clustering of clonal T cells around Langerhans cells (Pautrier's microabscesses) suggests dependence of T cells on interactions with these DCs
- Lymphocytes may show varying degrees of atypia (pleomorphic, hyperchromatic or convoluted nuclei)
- In addition to routine H&E, staining of skin-biopsy specimens with a panel of lymphocyte markers helps define malignant clone for subclassification (MF positive for T-cell receptor  $\gamma/\delta$  associated with more aggressive disease than MF without receptor rearrangement)

---

---

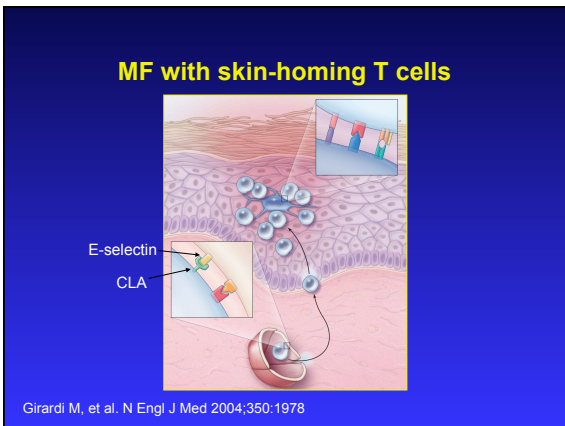
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---


---

---

---

---

Cutaneous manifestations of MF



Erythrodermic MF

Girardi M, et al. N Engl J Med 2004;350:1978

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Examination of multiple biopsy specimens from various lesions at various times will increase the likelihood that an accurate diagnosis will be made and PCR analysis of T-cell receptor genes to determine clonality may also be helpful

---

---

---

---

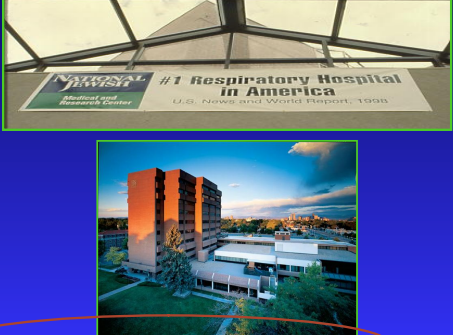
---

---

---

---

Atopic Dermatitis Program 1990-2012



Boguniewicz M, et al. Semin Cutan Med Surg 2008;27:115

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---